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Chief, G/A

25 June 1951

Chief, USSR Section

Request for office space at the Library of Congress

25X1A5a1

1. [REDACTED] has requested that office 25X1A5a1 space be obtained at the Library of Congress for use of [REDACTED] personnel engaged on the Division project. [REDACTED] plans call for three people to be assigned to the project for a period of two years. This unit will perform the key task of basic systematically exploiting the large number of unique source materials in the Library. It is of the utmost importance that adequate space and working facilities be provided in order to insure a maximum of efficiency for the prosecution of the project.

2. [REDACTED] indicated that the allocation of office space in the Library of Congress is directed by a Col. Webb (civilian).

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4. It is also requested that additional and separate office space be requested for USSR Section personnel. With the increase in personnel on the one hand and the intensification of detailed research on the other, the volume of demand upon LC materials is sharply increasing and will continue. The past frustration of the Section in obtaining adequate servicing on Russian materials from the CIA Library will pale into insignificance when compared to the frustration that will develop with the expected increase in traffic over the next 6-9 months. After the NIS is completed the Section plans to assign an average of two persons per day for research in Soviet materials. This is the only practicable method to overcome the CIA Library bottleneck and reduce the load that would otherwise be put upon it. By using office space in LC the personnel will obtain immediate service on cataloged books from the stacks, exploit them and return them immediately. In addition, personnel will be able to work directly with the stacks and in this way overcome some of the scattering of materials that exists as a result of poor cataloging in the past. Moreover, the personnel will be able to gain access to the stacks of uncataloged materials that would otherwise not be available for one to two years under the present rate of cataloging. In short, the Section will be able to overcome the terrible waste of time that results from using existing channels via CIA Library.

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